

CLAIMS

- A method for tracking printed articles, the method comprising the steps of:
 reading input indicating that a first carrier is being mounted to take up printed
 articles:
- 4 reading in an ID of the first carrier;
- 5 making a record associating the printed articles with the first carrier.
- 1 2. The method according to claim 1 wherein the step of reading in an ID of the first carrier comprises the sub-step of:
- 3 reading a bar code of the first carrier.

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- 3. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of reading in a code indicating that a carrier is being mounted comprises the sub-step of:

 reading a bar code indicating mounting of a carrier.
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- 4. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of reading input indicating that the first carrier is being mounted comprises the sub-step of:
- reading input indicating that a spool is being mounted to take up a web including printed articles.
- 1 5. The method of claim 4 further comprising the steps of:
- reading input indicating that the spool is being mounted to supply the web to a web fed line.

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1	6.	The method of claim 5 further comprising the steps of:
2		reading input indicating that a reel is being mounted to take up a sub web from the

3 web fed line; and

making a record associating content of the sub web with the reel.

- 1 7. The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:
- reading input indicating that the first carrier is being mounted to supply the printed articles, and
 - reading in the first carrier ID.
 - 8. The method of claim 7 further comprising the steps of:

reading in input indicating that a second carrier is being mounted to received the printed articles; and

making a record associating the printed articles with the second carrier.

- 9. The method of claim 7 wherein the step of reading input indicating that the first carrier is being mounted comprises the sub-step of:
 - reading a bar code indicating mounting.

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1 1 1 10. A computer readable medium containing programming instructions for tracking printed articles as they are generated and transferred from a first carrier to a second carrier in the course being produced, the computer readable medium including programing instructions for:

reading input indicating that a first carrier is being mounted to take up printed articles;

reading and ID of a first carrier ID; and

making a record associating the printed articles with the first carrier.

11. The computer readable medium according to claim 10 further including programming instruction for:

reading input indicating that the first carrier is being mounted to supply the printed articles, and

reading in the first carrier ID.

12. The computer readable medium according to claim 11 further including programming instruction for:

reading in input indicating that a second carrier is being mounted to received the printed articles; and

making a record associating the printed articles with the second carrier.

1	13.	A system for producing custom printed articles comprising:		
2		a printer;		
3		a computer system electrically coupled to the printer the information processing		
4	syste	system including:		
5		means for receiving information indicating that a spool is being mounted to		
6	take	up a web of printed articles output by the printer; and		
7		means for receiving information identifying the spool.		
1	14.	The system according to claim 13 wherein the means for receiving information		
2	indicating that a spool is being mounted includes:			
3		a bar code reader.		
1	15.	The system according to claim 13 wherein the means for receiving information		
2	ident	identifying the spool includes:		
3		a bar code reader.		
1	16.	The system according to claim 13 wherein the means for receiving information		
2	indicating that a spool is being mounted includes:			
3		a client computer.		
1	17.	The system according to claim 13 wherein the means for receiving information		
2	ident	ifying the spool includes:		
3		a client computer.		
1	18.	The system according to claim 13 further comprising:		
2		means for making a record associating the printed articles with the spool.		
1	19.	The system according to claim 13 further comprising:		
2		a slitter for slitting the web into a plurality of sub webs.		

- 1 20. The system according to claim 19 further comprising:
- 2 means for receiving information indicating that a reel is being mounted to take up
- a sub web of printed articles from the spool.